

HR001118S0055 Space Environment Exploitation (SEE)
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
As of 09/13/18

16Q: On page 6, #26 of the HR001118S0055 Grants.gov application instructions it says to provide biographical sketches. Then it says "Resumes should be attached here as well." What is the difference between a resume and a biosketch – aren't they the same thing? If they are different, please explain the difference and explain which personnel would attach the biosketch and which would attach the resume.

16A: The terms Resumes, CVs, and/or Biosketches are interchangeable in this instance. The difference in the documents depends on whether you are highlighting the overall professional or academic information, or highlighting just those elements that are pertinent to this case.

15Q: Attachment E, Volume 2: Cost Volume Template numbered page 1 (the third page of the document) calls out to provide the budget breakdown by Government Fiscal Year but in the Cost Summary sections of that same document (page 3) it says to use the Contractor Fiscal year, in a couple of different places. Which one are we supposed to use?

15A: Both budget by Government Fiscal Year and by Contractor Fiscal Year should be provided.

14Q: Can the due date for proposals be extended?

14A: DARPA is not extending the date for proposal submissions at this time.

13Q: Can you please clarify how to include DoD entities in the cost proposal? My understanding is that they cannot receive a subaward from an external vendor, rather the money must be MIPR'd from DARPA. Should we include their costs in our proposal as if they will be a subaward, and assume DARPA would remove that amount during award negotiation? If not, can you clarify how we should account for those costs?

13A: You should include their costs in your proposal as if they will be a subaward, and assume that DARPA will remove the amount during award negotiations. Please refer to Section II.A.1.b of the BAA, and page 2 of Attachment E.

Section III.A.1.b. - "Government Entities (e.g., Government/National laboratories, military educational institutions, etc.) are subject to applicable direct competition limitations. Government entities must clearly demonstrate that the work is not otherwise available from the private sector and provide written documentation citing the specific statutory authority and contractual authority, if relevant, establishing their ability to propose to Government solicitations. This information is required for Government Entities proposing to be awardees or subawardees."

SEE_Attachment E_Proposal Template_Vol 2_Cost, Page 2 - "The prime proposer is responsible for the compilation and submission of all non-proprietary subawardee cost proposals. Proposal submissions will not be considered complete until the Government has received all subawardee

cost proposals. Proprietary subawardee cost proposals may be included as part of the Cost Volume or emailed separately by the subawardee to SEE@darpa.mil. Email messages must include “Subawardee Cost Proposal” in the subject line and identify the principal investigator, prime proposer organization and proposal title in the body of the message.”

12Q: Is there an opportunity for a post-abstract review discussion?

12A: We will not be discussing the program abstracts during the proposal period.

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11Q: Referencing page 8 of the SEE BAA, is developing “...non-traditional sensing methods that ideally are inexpensive, exploitive of current and/or future systems, and potentially deployable by expeditionary forces” welcome? While it is clear that the SEE BAA is focused on improved modeling, our proposal seeks to provide strong boundary conditions to the models; it is an engineering-applied-science project. Should we submit this to another DARPA opportunity instead?

11A: SEE welcomes innovative proposals that address all of the requirements and criteria of both Technical Areas as specified in the BAA. The proposer shall use their own judgement on whether their proposal meets these requirements. Teaming is highly encouraged to help in this endeavor.

10Q: Are expenses for scientific publications and/or the participation in scientific conferences eligible costs for this solicitation?

10A: Per the *Cost Summary* in *Attachment E Volume 2*, “Costs must be broken down by major cost items to include: labor costs, materials, travel, consultants, subawards, other direct charges (ODCs), indirect costs (overhead, fringe, general and administrative (G&A)), and any proposed fee for the project.” Costs for attendance to conferences and related travel must be delineated and justified in the proposal. These costs may be allowed, provided the subject area of the conference has a direct bearing on the proposed work. Publication costs should also be delineated and justified.

9Q: May resumes of key personnel be included in partial fulfillment of Section 6 of Attachment D of the proposal, without counting toward the total page count (considering the information provided in the table on the first page of the Attachment D template?

9A: Per page one Attachment D, *Volume 1: Technical and Management Volume Template*, resumes do not count towards the 20 page limit.

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8Q: A major component of the work described in the BAA involved codes that run on HPC-GPU architectures. Would successful proposals have access to such HPC resources provided by DARPA (as is the case with NASA proposals where NASA provides HPC resources at no cost to the proposal), or would they be expected to provide their own HPC resources?

8A: DARPA will not be providing HPC resources. Proposers are expected to source their own HPC resources and include the costs to do so in their proposals. The level of HPC resources needed is dependent on the particular methodologies chosen to achieve the goals of SEE.

7Q: Are there any general guidelines for the size of the projects? Are there any annual lower or upper bounds for the cost?

7A: The size of the projects should be commensurate with achieving the goals of SEE, over a three-year period of performance. Note that SEE will not provide space launch.

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6Q: I understand that the proposers will deliver a software package for enhanced nowcasting. Will the proposers be able to continue using (and improving) the software once the project has ended?

6A: Once the project has ended, proposers can continue using and improving the software to which they have rights. The delivered software package will not be modified once the project has ended.

5Q: On page 7 of the SEE BAA the description below appears:

“Proposers should describe the computational platform(s) needed to run models such as high-performance computers, graphics processing units, tensor processing units, etc. Proposers should provide an estimate of how much computing power and resources are needed for their approach and account for these in the proposal. Proposers should not assume that DARPA will provide additional computational resources not included in the proposal.”

This appears to imply that DARPA will make available HSC resources to successful proposers provide they call out the necessary resources in their proposal. Is that reading correct?

If one can request HSC resources, how is that costed in the proposal?

Is this step (the estimate of the HSC requirements) based on the requirement to provide a demonstration of capability?

5A: DARPA expects each proposal to source their own compute power be it in-house, government, academic, or commercial, and account for these costs in the proposal. DARPA will not provide computing resources. Proposers should base the compute power and how much it will cost on their proposed method to accomplish and demonstrate the goals of SEE.

4Q: Is an MHD approach to the forecasting necessary or may other types of modeling approaches be used?

4A: DARPA recognizes that there could be other potential approaches to accomplish the goals of SEE. How one goes about establishing the dynamical equations of motion spans

the range from fully first-principled to strongly data driven, and everything in between. To borrow phrasing from the mathematics community, “representing the problem in a different basis” is acceptable for SEE.

3Q: Will the charts presented at the Proposers/Industry Day be made available? I looked on the DSO and FBO websites and could not find them.

3A: The programmatic slides presented at the SEE Proposers Day are now available on the DARPA DSO Opportunities website.

<https://www.darpa.mil/work-with-us/opportunities?tFilter=&oFilter=2&sort=date>

2Q: Unclassified hours are freely available on the DoD HPC systems. How should requests for hours on these systems be included in any SEE submissions and how will DARPA “cost” such requests?

2A: DARPA requests that each proposal provide an estimate of how much computing power and resources are needed for their approach. Due to multiple possible approaches to accomplish SEE goals, the level of compute power needed could vary. Thus, DARPA expects each proposal to source their own compute power be it in-house, government, academic, or commercial, and account for these costs in the proposal. Proposers should not assume that DARPA will provide additional computational resources not included in the proposal.

1Q: What is the budget amount for each proposal?

1A: Multiple awards are anticipated. The level of funding for individual awards made has not been predetermined and will depend on the content of the proposals received and the availability of funds. Proposers are expected to request the level of funding commensurate with the proposed work.